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ASCENDANCY II TOXICITY

REN A. RAIN

Ascendancy II

Toxicity

By Ren A. Rain

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This book depicts explicit sexual scenes and is not intended for minors.

Content warnings:

- * Toxic relationships
- * Emotional manipulation
- * Coercive dynamics
- * Psychological abuse
- * Possessive behavior
- * Controlling dynamics
- * Harassment
- * Unhealthy coping mechanisms
- * Themes of emotional dependency

This series explores toxic and controlling dynamics and is not intended to romanticize abuse.

Distortion

Kellan's dark smile hid an expression Alyssa was afraid to discover.

"What do you mean? Let go of me..."

She started, only just noticing Kellan did so.

"You can leave if you please, but don't you want to hear what I have to say? I promise it is something you do."

He then said as his grip loosened. Alyssa was confused.

"It's about your team. And it's certain captain."

He spoke as he adjusted his clothes.

"What about Otto?"

Alyssa asked. Kellan leaned closer so his eyes met hers. The lust in them had long faded, and what remained was something else.

Interest.

"Have you spared a thought for why he is like

that? A total control freak. Why does he behave around everyone like that?”

He asked a rhetorical question next.

“It’s his way...”

She replied. Kellan smiled. Not genuinely, it didn’t reach his eyes.

“You really think so? You don’t think Otto was different back in the day?”

He then asked. Alyssa’s mind sparked a little. Was Otto... Different years ago? Like, not an asshole?

“Was he?”

She tried.

“Maybe he was. It’s not my place to talk about him too much. After all, I don’t spare too much thought for the guy. But you seem to do.”

Kellan then said. Shit, how did he know about Alyssa and Otto? Had someone told him.

“Hey... That’s my business.”

Alyssa spoke. Kellan chuckled.

“Yes, it is. I don’t dictate what you can do. Or who you do. I’m glad I was one of those guys.”

He gave her a playful smirk.

“I don’t... sleep around.”

Alyssa got defensive. It was a half-truth. After Brennan, she had been involved with many men.

“Sure.”

He replied, sounding genuine in believing her. But somehow it still felt like a mockery to her. She ignored him and got up.

“I have to leave. You... already have my number, so...”

Alyssa said. Did she want to see him again? In a setting like this?

"Oh, I certainly do. Are you giving me permission for late-night calls?"

He asked, wearing his flirty smile. Alyssa rolled her eyes.

"Booty calls, maybe."

She said back, not committing but giving Kellan permission. She had a grin on her face, too. He was just sex, like Alyssa had already decided.

"I was that good, neat. Aight. See ya later."

She was about to leave.

"And by the way, Alyssa..."

His voice changed a bit.

"Huh?"

She turned around.

"Don't choke tomorrow... Save that for later."

He added, never losing his smirk, reminding her

about the upcoming trial.

Payoff 2026 finals.

Alyssa tried to sleep, but her mind was occupied with not only what was happening tomorrow, but also because of two certain men.

No. Three. Because she would face Brennan on the stage as well.

SkyBlue had played well, like always. Made it to the finals. AquaticPhantom had led them to victory.

Alyssa knew that Brennan wouldn't care that he was faced with her ex. He would crush her. Maybe she deserved it. Her betrayal had been cruel.

Sometimes Alyssa still cried when she thought about how he wanted to take the next step and move in together.

She also learned that he was planning to propose soon... She destroyed everything by joining Blood Moon.

Then she betrayed him again by falling for Otto.

Or did it happen before? She wasn't sure anymore.

Nevertheless, she couldn't get much sleep tonight...

The next morning, as she woke up, the stakes were already high. She checked her phone to see if there was a message from anyone.

From Otto. There was none. Not even when the clock was at 7:30 am and one last rehearsal was in an hour.

No rest on the final day. Otto made sure of that.

"Hiya, babes. It's me. Hope you got a good night's sleep after our little evening exercise.~'

The message came from none other than Kellan. The guy with whom she had been in bed last night. Right after Otto...

What was she even thinking? She didn't mean for it to go there. Not with Otto, at least.

And that one drink with Kellan, him so close to her. She momentarily lost control.

Alyssa was nothing like that. She had never done it before; she slept with two guys in a row. Now she had done it...

The emotional weight of it was still devastating.

'Yeah, I did. I have to skip breakfast since I'm in a hurry. Overslept a little bit.'

She texted back. She knew that Kellan would prefer to see her right in the morning... Have breakfast and probably flirt with her again. Unlike Otto, Kellan seemed not to mind where things led last evening. Or, then, Otto didn't mind either. Alyssa really couldn't tell what was going on in Blood Moon Captain's head.

He hadn't reacted much when Alyssa called him a fucking cheater. Because he was. He had a girlfriend, yet still he fucked other girls. It made Alyssa mad, because in her a bit delusional mind, she had thought that maybe... It was not all about sex.

Maybe he liked her for at least a little bit. He didn't; he was just fooling around. It was all sex to him.

Was Alyssa going to play his game as well? Now knowing that Otto was going behind his partner's back.

Maybe she was... She knew she should just stop but couldn't anymore. Otto was inside her head; she found herself thinking about him too much. As she arrived at the training venue, she just walked past him. Remembering how he made her writhe on his desk...

She quickly noticed that Dan and Wizzy were yet to arrive. She was there alone. With him. She didn't greet him fully.

"Alyssa."

She heard how he called her name. She turned around and was faced with him. He was wearing his captain jersey and his hair in a lazy ponytail. Why did he have to look like that? So casually sexy...

"Yeah? Where is everyone?"

She asked but knew the truth already. He had called her here so they could be alone for the moment.

"I want to talk."

Otto then said. His voice was calm, but now it hid something.

Talk about what?

“Okay, bring it. If it’s about my tactics, I—“

She started, knowing it had to be about the game.

“No.”

He stopped her like many times before. He closed the space between them. She wanted to back down but didn’t. She could feel her breathing quickening. He was so close now.

But...

Like many times before, the spell was broken as Dan walked in with his backpack. He immediately noticed their close proximity. Otto pulled back, not startled but still caught by surprise.

“Ohh, did I come at a bad time...?”

Dan asked. Otto was quiet.

“In fifteen.”

He just announced that practice was about to begin shortly.

Five minutes later, Wizzy walked in as well.

Alyssa’s heart was still racing.

The rehearsal match was ruthless. Otto really made her work for it. Or rather, the whole team.

“Push!”

He gave an order as Dan was about to fall behind. Alyssa assisted Wizzy now. She managed to drain mana from an enemy tank before she got shot by an archer.

The other team was bots, but on an extra-hard level. This was for real now. In a real game, the enemy wouldn’t hold back.

AquaticPhantom wouldn’t hold back.

Alyssa shook her head quickly. Otto noticed her falter.



NORWAY CHANGED
EVERYTHING.
IN GERMANY, SHE LOST
CONTROL.

TOXICITY IS THE SECOND BOOK
IN ASCENDANCY DARK
ROMANCE ESPORTS TRILOGY

BoD



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